MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANICKAR (*Kartikapalli II*): Which is cheaper, the manufacture here or abroad?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Tinctures manufactured here are certainly cheaper.

The Alleppey Pier.

31. ***MR. M. N. NAIR** (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that, due to the silting up of sand underneath the pier at the Alleppey Port, only two out of the six stages on the pier are now useful for loading and unloading goods;

(*b*) whether they are also aware that, due to the delay caused thereby, big steamers are reluctant to touch the port of Alleppey now-a-days; and

(*c*) what action they are taking both to remove the sand already silted up and also to prevent further silting up as at present?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Out of the eight stages, including two steam cranes and two hand cranes on the pier for working cargo, four stages and two cranes are now useful for loading and unloading goods at all stages of the tide and two cranes also are workable at high tide.

(*b*) All possible temporary arrangements have been made to avoid delay to cargo work on the pier. Big steamers are calling at the port as often as here-to-fore and they are not reluctant to touch the port.

(*c*) Cutting of the sand ridges and removal of sand by hand bucket dredging and an excavation scheme for the removal of sand accreted have been sanctioned by Government on the recommendation of the Principal Port Officer. The hand bucket dredging work is in progress and will be continued for some time as a temporary measure. Government propose to obtain the services of an expert to investigate and report to Government the causes of sand accretion. Measures for the prevention of further silting will be considered on receipt of the report from the expert.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): With reference to answer to part (*b*), is not the bucket dredging scheme a source of loss to Government?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): That is only a temporary measure.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): For how long is this temporary measure to be continued?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Till a report of the expert is received.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Has any expert been obtained to investigate the matter?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Government are trying to get the services of an expert.

MR. M. N. NAIR (*Kottayam I*): Is it likely that the services of an expert will be got soon?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government hope to.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know whether the largest crane, which lifts five tons, is working now?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Does the Government know that this silting up has substantially affected foreign and coastal trade in Alleppey?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Trade has been affected to some extent.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Are the Government alive to the seriousness of the situation in the Alleppey pier?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. EDAVANAT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Does the Government consider that urgent and immediate steps are necessary?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): That is why they are taking measures.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is it the report of the Port Officer that the stages and cranes useful for working cargo are sufficently worked?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Is the present state of affairs of the Alleppey Port found satisfactory for trade purposes?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertallai II*): May I know the number of steamers that touched at the Alleppey pier in 1108?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): That has been answered.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, is it a fact that the number of steamers that call at the port has decreased?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It has not.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Then may I know how the member came to that inference if he does not know?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): That is the report of the Port Officer.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I would suggest that a successful manner in which short answers may be given to questions is, by making investigations in pursuance to a question and collecting all requisite information (*Hear, hear.*), for example in this question part (*a*),

> "whether they are also aware that, due to the delay caused thereby, big steamers are reluctant to touch the port of Alleppey now-a-days.....".

In a matter like this, the number of steamers that do touch is very important. The same is the case with regard to the working of the biggest crane. Not that I want to give any direction as to the framing of particular answers, but I am only saying that public business will be better facilitated and supplementary questions may not be put unnecessarily if such necessary information is collected in future. (*Hear, hear*).

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